BACTERIOLOGY SUBMISSIONS

AEROBIC SPECIMENS FROM NECROPSIED ANIMALS

1. Collect all specimens as aseptically as possible. Liberal portions of each organ should be collected. If the outside of the specimen is accidentally contaminated, wash the specimen with clean tap water.
2. **Refrigerate** (wet ice packs) all specimens to prevent saprophytic overgrowth.
3. Collect observable lesions or suspected target organs.
4. For neonatal diarrhea, submit a tied off 4-5 cm segment of jejunum, ileum, and colon with the accompanying lymph nodes for culture of pathogenic bacteria.
5. Tissue specimens should be placed in individual leak-proof plastic bags and identified (use water-proof ink on bags).

MASTITIS MILK SPECIMENS

1. Wash udder to remove dirt and allow to dry.
2. Scrub teat end with alcohol soaked cotton and let it dry.
3. Samples should be collected in a sterile container immediately prior to regular milking without discarding any streams of milk (since the foremilk usually contains the greatest number of the infecting micro-organisms).

SWAB SUBMISSIONS

Collect samples aseptically and submit in a commercial transport media.

ANAEROBIC AND MICROAEROPHILIC SPECIMENS

Note: The success of culture for anaerobic and microaerophilic organisms is heavily dependent on sample selection and shipment.

1. Sample should be taken from a living animal or a fresh carcass.
2. Specimens should be submitted in a transport media that limits or excludes air from the sample. Use a commercial anaerobic transport media swab.

MYCOLOGY

COLLECTION AND CARE OF SPECIMENS

1. Submit skin scrapings from the outer edges of a lesion and submit plucked (not cut) hairs.
2. Skin, hair, and nails should be shipped to the laboratory without refrigeration.
3. Submit internal organs or internal lesions suspected of fungal infection.
4. Internal specimens should be sent refrigerated (wet ice packs) and not frozen. Use whirl-paks and insulate.

RESULTS

Fungal isolations normally take longer than bacterial isolations; therefore, a tentative report may be made by the laboratory upon completion of direct microscopic examination of the specimen.